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## *CLAIMS*

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I claim:

1. A method of benchmarking electronic mail (i.e., email) filtering performance, comprising the steps:
  - a. obtaining an email address to be tested
  - b. validating the email address to be tested
  - c. manufacturing the benchmark test suite of emails
  - d. electronically mailing the test suite to the tested email address
2. The method of claim 1, further including the step
  - a. collecting emails to be used in the benchmark suite
3. The method of claim 1, further including the step
  - a. customizing emails to be used in the benchmark suite
4. The method of claim 1, further including the step
  - a. testing the benchmark suite for normalizing against prior suites
5. The method of claim 1, that obtains an email address to be tested and further includes this step
  - a. obtaining a passcode for validation
6. The method of claim 1, that obtains an email address to be tested and further includes in this step
  - a. obtaining other user data that may be relevant to manufacturing the benchmark suite.
7. The method of claim 1, further including the step
  - a. the presentation of other information relevant to how the user can analyze the benchmark data.
8. The method of claim 2, further including the step
  - a. the collecting emails for benchmarking using a means that can reliably distinguish among categories of email automatically
9. The method of claim 3, further including the step

- a. inserting a text string in the body of the benchmark emails that permits different email categories to be reliably sorted for analysis of the performance of the email filter.